

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 remain in this application.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 22-24 are directed to allowable subject matter, if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 1, 10, 18, 19, and 22-24 have been hereby amended.

The following addresses the specific objections and rejections in the Office Action:

1. Rejections Under 35 USC 112. Applicant has amended independent claim 10, to provide for a “call” (rather than “calls”); therefore, the previously insufficient antecedent basis in claims 15-17 (dependent from claim 10) is provided. By amending the independent claim 10 in this manner, it is not Applicant’s intention to and is not a further limitation of claim 10 (and its dependent claims) because it is understandable that multiple calls can be occurring simultaneously over the claimed “communications network”. However, the respective claims address particular handling of at least one of the multiple calls, and thus the scope of claim 10 should and does include multiple calls and distinct handling of the calls per the claimed limitations.

Applicant has amended claim 19 in the manner suggested by the examiner to correct the clerical error causing the antecedent basis concern.

Applicant has amended dependent claims 22, 23 and 24, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, to render claims 22, 23 and 24 allowable, per the examiner’s directions.

2. Claims 1, 2, 9-10 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Hakim. As clearly described as the limited purpose of Hakim, for example, in col. 2, lines 59-64,

Hakim describes handling of calls from known sources originating as 800/888/900 numbers and the like. Hakim requires a Network Control Point (NCP) for “hosting a database that maps the called 800/888 number to a destination (npa-nxx-xxxx) number” (e.g., col. 2, lines 60-61). Thus, Hakim is limited in scope of how and what it can accomplish, from or to the known Toll-Free numbers, and then merely maps those Toll-Free numbers to other designated destination numbers which are reached through a packetized network system.

Applicant’s claimed inventions described in the rejected claims as here amended, are operable for any “call, originated from any source for any receiving source per the call,” and does not require a prior knowledge of receiving source or intended recipient telephone number or destination of the call for utilization with a database map to determine an *a priori* designated number/recipient. The amendments to the claims, admittedly, do not limit the possibility that a source of a “call” could be an 800/888/900 number; however, the amended claims further do not specifically include any particular mapping to an *a priori* designated number/recipient. Rather, Applicant’s amended claims include provision for initiation of any type call to any call destination, then receipt of the call by the gateway of the packetized network, then after performing some service via the feature platform, transferring the call to another location in the network, *with the connection between the gateway and the other location being independent of the feature of the platform*. Thus, there is not necessarily any *a priori* designated number to which is directed the call and the call received. Moreover, the call, itself, is the reason for receipt at any receiving source *per the call*. In sum, although Applicant’s claimed inventions could serve to direct an incoming Toll Free 800/888 call to a preset designated number (i.e., the “other location”), this direction of the call is not particularly performed by the service of the feature platform. It is performed, instead, via a *connection between the gateway and the other location*

that is independent of the feature of the platform. It is possible that the feature platform, itself, could in certain arrangements obtain a similar result to Hakim's result from receiving the 800/888 call and directing it to a predesignated/mapped number/location – but, as per the amended claims, Applicant's claimed invention can achieve the similar result only because of the connection between the gateway and the other location that is independent of the feature of the platform. Applicant's claimed inventions are directed to an entirely different operation than disclosed and required in the Hakim design, and certainly this entirely different operation per Applicant's claims is not anticipated by Hakim.

3. Claims 3-7, 11-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hakim in view of Fougnyes. As described in 2 above, Hakim does not disclose the limitations of the subject matter of these rejected claims, as each rejected claim ultimately depends from the respective amended claims 1 and 10. The combination of Fougnyes does not teach or suggest or provide to Hakim the limitations not disclosed by Hakim.

4. Claims 8 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hakim in view of O'Neal. The same response in 3 above applies similarly to the grounds here.

5. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC 10(a) as unpatentable over Hakim in view of Burke. The same response in 3 above applies similarly to the grounds here.

6. Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hakim in view of Nelson. The same response in 3 above applies similarly to the grounds here.

7. Claims 25-27 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hakim in view of Seazholtz. The same response in 3 above applies similarly to the grounds here.

8. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 USC 103(1) as unpatentable over Dowd in view of Burke. Dowd specifically states its purpose is a "network firewall security apparatus" that "is

specific to high-speed circuit switched networks, Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) networks in particular.” In certain of the cited portions of Dowd referred to by the examiner (e.g., col. 4 and lines cited as well as others), Dowd describes that its: “[a]ctive connection management determines the source and destination of the connection through examination of signaling and routing messages. This active connection management uses various techniques to implement flow approval, including participant verification, route validation, and endpoint authentication.” This firewall of Dowd merely performs the firewall function of checking incoming, verifying incoming and intended source, and verifying endpoint. Dowd must handle these functions to limit passage across the firewall of unacceptable/inappropriate data streams.

Applicant’s claimed invention, to the contrary, specifically involves a call from an “external telephone network.” This external network does not necessarily require any participant verification of the external telephone network prior to the external network entering the network of Applicant’s claimed invention. Rather, an egress to the network by the external telephone network just happens (because of VoIP technology) – any telephone caller can make a call that enters the network claimed by Applicant. Once within the network of Applicant’s claimed invention, Applicant’s feature platform controls the information stream within the network – which can include a wide variety of feature platform services, as described and intended from Applicant’s specification and claims – and thereat controls the VoIP data in respect of the received network information corresponding to the external telephone network calls. The “connections between the destination numbers and respective calling agents being independent of the feature platform after each of the calls is connected”.

The feature platform claimed by Applicant could possibly provide for blocking of calls from certain callers from the external telephone network; however, this would not be achieved

by the firewall function of Dowd which could only merely check the incoming data stream to determine whether or not to allow it to pass the firewall of Dowd. Dowd would require the additional features claimed by Applicant, in order to provide an external telephone network with the particular incoming data stream that identifies the sender and then could permit the Dowd-type firewall to discern from the data stream.

Applicant's claimed invention of egress to the network from an external telephone network, a feature platform to control the outgoing calls from that egress to the network from the external telephone network, and the connections between the destination numbers and respective calling agents being independent of the feature platform after each of the calls is connected – is not taught or suggested by Dowd. The combination of Burke to suggest that the “call agent” in Applicant's claimed invention of egress to the network from an external telephone network does not provide any teaching or suggestion that overcomes the limited scope of Dowd to firewall functions in a wholly data stream environment (i.e., not contemplating external telephone network egress to Applicant's claimed network, etc.).

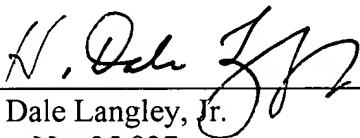
Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for stating the allowability of claims 22-24 as herein rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's requirements.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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H. Dale Langley, Jr.
Reg. No. 35,927

The Law Firm of H. Dale Langley, Jr.
610 West Lynn
Austin, Texas 78703
Telephone: (512) 477-3830
Facsimile: (512) 477-4080
E-Mail: dlanglely@iptechlaw.com